

**MINUTES OF THE
JOINT PUBLIC EDUCATION APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING
THURSDAY, JANUARY 25, 2007, 2:00 P.M.
Room W135, West Office Building, State Capitol Complex**

Members Present: Sen. Howard A. Stephenson, Co-Chair
Rep. Bradley G. Last, Co-Chair
Sen. Lyle W. Hillyard
Sen. Patricia W. Jones
Sen. Kevin T. VanTassell
Rep. Tim M. Cosgrove
Rep. Brad L. Dee
Rep. Lorie D. Fowlke
Rep. Gage Froerer
Rep. Ronda Rudd Menlove
Rep. Karen W. Morgan
Rep. Phil Riesen
Rep. Carl Wimmer

Members Absent: Rep. Gregory H. Hughes
Rep. Aaron Tilton

Staff Present: Ben Leishman, Legislative Fiscal Analyst
J. Daniel Schoenfeld, Legislative Fiscal Analyst
Cherie Schmidt, Secretary

Public Speakers Present: James Henderson, Director of Instructional Technology, Granite School District and also Project Director for eMINTS for Utah
Rachel Murphy, Project Coordinator for eMINTS
Paul McCarty, Administrator in Educational Equity in the Granite School District
Dr. Paul Sagers, Assistant Superintendent of Program Services, Granite School District
Maria Farrington, Director of Educational Services of Centro de la Familia
Don Uchida, Executive Director, USOR
Linda Rutledge, Superintendent, Utah School for the Deaf and Blind
Todd Hauber, Finance Director, USDB
Jessica Fuller (Interpreter–Clay Anderson)
Edgar Taylor, Citizen
Rod Home, Citizen
Heide Johnson, Citizen, Transitional Services
Robert Norman, Citizen, Independent Living
Heather Quintana, Citizen, Independent Living

Jimmy Jones, Citizen, Independent Living
Bambi Sorenson, Citizen, Nursing Services and Salaries
Carrie Kilgar, Deaf and Blind Schools Orientation and Mobility
Specialist
Sharyl Smith, Teacher Libraries
Dennis Morgan, Retired Librarian
Dr. Linda Wolcott, Vice Provost for Libraries, Utah State University
Carol Hansen, Professor at Weber State
Diana Graff, Dean of Library, SUU Cedar City.
Lory Curtis, Principal of South Park Academy

A list of visitors and a copy of handouts are filed with the Subcommittee minutes.

Co-Chair Last called the meeting to order at 2:18 p.m.

1. **Welcome** - Co-Chair Last welcomed all those present to the meeting.
2. **Approval of Minutes** - There were no minutes to approve.
3. **Technology Update** - James Henderson, Director of Instructional Technology, Granite School District and also Project Director for eMINTS for Utah addressed the Subcommittee and also introduced Rachel Murphy, Project Coordinator for eMINTS. eMINTS is a professional development model that uses technology to encourage a new way of educating students by utilizing resources in the classroom that foster cooperation, collaboration, problem-solving, and higher-order thinking skills. The eMINTS Program was developed in 1997 by the University of Missouri in 13 classrooms in six school districts. The program is now in seven states and 1,800 classrooms. In 2003, five school districts in Utah replicated the model in 40 classrooms using a federal grant. Now in Utah there are 150 classrooms and additional districts. Each classroom has a teacher laptop, ceiling-mounted projector, networked color printer, Interwrite/SMART Board, digital camera, scanner, and one computer for every two students. Students are involved in engaged projects. Each teacher receives 100 hours of professional development the first year and 75 hours the second year. Each classroom is visited by an eMINTS specialist twice a month to model and coach the teacher in the new instructional practices. Districts select schools of higher need using U-PASS and at-risk data. Observations of this program include students who are more engaged, motivated, and enjoy school; teachers who are excited about teaching; principals who observe lower absenteeism and fewer behavioral referrals; and district specialists who observe teachers working in teams and ongoing training and coaching support. A handout given to the Subcommittee details the information above.

Ms. Murphy responded to a question posed by Rep. Riesen concerning how difficult it is for teachers not only to learn this new technology but learn a new way of teaching. She stated that it is a three to five-year change process. Teachers are trained for two years on the best teaching practices of how to accomplish cooperative learning and how to manage the technology. Rep. Froerer also asked about the intent of this technology. Mr. Henderson stated the intent of the program is to implement it in all classrooms. The software packages used are Microsoft Office, Inspiration, Internet Software, Movie-Making Software, and Free Software. The only software that is purchased is Microsoft Office and Inspiration. Software is used to aid teaching practices.

Paul McCarty, Administrator in Educational Equity in the Granite School District; Dr. Paul Sagers, Assistant Superintendent of Program Services; and Maria Farrington, Director of Educational Services of Centro de la Familia spoke to the Subcommittee concerning funding for the Utah Family Literacy Centers. Two handouts were given to the Subcommittee entitled, "Utah Family Literacy Centers Logic Model," and "Utah Family Literacy Centers Proposal." Dr. Paul Sagers said that there is excitement because of the clear communication that the Legislature is going to review family involvement and the achievement gap and try to narrow that gap through the Family Centers. Maria Farrington also addressed the Subcommittee in support of these Centers. She stated that if the Legislature does fund these 48 centers, the program is ready to be implemented. She stated that the purpose of this proposal is to allow ELL children and their families to get into the school in a welcoming environment and for the parents to become advocates and supporters of their child's education. Sen. Jones also spoke in support of this proposal.

Co-Chair Last asked the presenters about the \$4 million change from the original proposal. Mr. McCarty stated that the proposal now includes the student achievement management system DigitalBridge. There is also a preschool component added and an infrastructure to implement DigitalBridge. Co-Chair Last also asked the question of how these Centers would benefit smaller rural schools. Mr. McCarty responded by saying that all districts would benefit from all the professional development. He further stated that these schools could develop a Family Literacy Center to receive all the technical assistance that other Family Literacy Centers provide. Mr. McCarty further stated that the needs of each school and child are served through this program.

Co-Chair Last asked the question concerning if the budget request for these centers from the State Board of Education and the Family Literacy request are tied together. Mr. McCarty stated that Superintendent Harrington's proposal of \$6.1 million is dealing with all schools with an ELL service pattern. The Family Literacy Centers request deals with high-impact schools. It was also stated that this program does not duplicate any other program or service. Maria Farrington stated that the program is being measured in terms

of parent involvement, reading level in school and in the home, and academic gains for the students as well as parents.

4. **Analyst Budget Presentation** - Danny Schoenfeld, Legislative Fiscal Analyst, referred to Tab 9 of the *Budget Analysis FY 2008* State Office of Rehabilitation. This Office operates programs designed to assist disabled individuals to prepare for and obtain employment or increase their level of independence. The budget areas are Vocational Rehabilitation, Independent Living Centers, Blind Services, and Federal Funds. The Federal Funds request for four of these programs is listed under the State Office of Education Federal Funds Report. The total budget for the USOR is \$55.3 million. One budget request in this area is for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing. The division requests funds to hire a case manager to assist in the growing number of cases that have been referred to case managers. The request also includes ADA Accommodation Costs for interpreters to assist in a variety of capacities for the division. The division indicates that there are increased costs in contracting interpreters and court interpreters. The Analyst recommends that the Legislature consider adopting the base budget amount of \$55,343,000 to the USOR, consider the budget issues raised in the Issue Briefs mentioned in this brief, consider and prioritize an increase of \$71,000 in Uniform School Fund revenue for an increase in one FTE for a case manager, and increase in costs for interpretive services.

Mr. Schoenfeld also referred to the Issue Brief - Vocational Rehabilitation. Currently, Vocational Rehabilitation provides services within one year of a student leaving school, usually around the age of 17 to 20 years old to facilitate transition to employment or post secondary training. The request is for funds to provide for an additional 9 FTE: six Vocational Rehabilitation Counselors and three secretaries in the amount of \$723,500. The Analyst recommends that the Subcommittee prioritize the request for \$723,500 in ongoing Uniform School Fund revenue to provide for the Transitional Services request and to also prioritize \$500,000 in one-time revenue for assisted technology products.

The next Issue Brief discussed was the Independent Living Centers. These Centers enable citizens with disabilities to live more independent lives. They work with various divisions of the Utah State Office of Rehabilitation and the Utah Statewide Independent Living Council to coordinate services. Currently, six ILCs and four satellite centers operate throughout the state. This year the Utah State Office of Education is asking for an additional \$150,000 to maintain existing services for Independent Living Center clientele and expand services to new clients. The primary interest in this request is the issue of transportation. Five of the six Independent Living Centers are located in rural parts of the state. This request would help ILD maintain their current level of transportation service. Legislative action would be to consider the request for \$150,000 of ongoing Uniform School Revenue be appropriated for the division and the six centers.

The Issue Brief - Blind Services was also discussed. They are asking for outreach and rural services. Requested funding will allow the division to better identify and serve rural individuals with visual impairments. The division anticipates hiring four part-time outreach staff to locate and serve eligible individuals. In addition, the division anticipates hiring a full-time rehabilitation employee to coordinate rural service delivery and follow-up on consumer needs. This FTE will coordinate with 10-12 temporary employees who will help train blind and visually impaired individuals. This request amounts to \$132,865. The recommendation to the Subcommittee is to evaluate and prioritize \$132,865 for this request.

The Budget Brief - Utah Schools for the Deaf and Blind was the next item discussed. The Utah Schools for the Deaf and Blind (USDB) was established in 1896 to meet the educational needs of individuals with hearing or vision impairments. USDB serves approximately 1,600 students from birth through age 21 in three main programs; namely, self-contained classrooms, student consultation, and residential services. The total USDB budget exceeds \$26.7 million. A table contained in this brief details this request. The Analyst recommends that the Legislature consider adopting the base budget amount of \$26,751,800 for the USDB and also approve an ongoing appropriation for the statutory teachers' salary adjustment of \$1,390,700 as well as Step and Lane changes of \$191,600 for FY 2007 budget.

Next discussed was the Budget Brief - USDB Institutional Council. This Council acts as an advisory panel to the State Board of Education and State Superintendent when considering the educational needs of the deaf, blind, and deaf/blind students in the state. The Council also provides input on USDB staff positions, school policy, budget, operations, and any other duties as delegated by the State Board of Education. The Analyst recommends that the Legislature consider reaffirming the base budget amount of \$600,000 in dedicated credits revenue for the USDB - Institutional Council.

Mr. Schoenfeld also covered the Budget Brief - Child Nutrition Programs. The Child Nutrition Programs represent a series of federal assistance programs designed to provide high-quality nutritionally well-balanced means and develop nutrition awareness among students. The major programs include the National School Lunch Program, the National School Breakfast Program, Special Milk Program, a Food Distribution Program, and several other programs. The Programs offer low cost or free means to children in public and nonprofit private schools. The Analyst recommends that the Legislature consider reaffirming the base budget amount of \$129,265,800 for the Child Nutrition Program as detailed in the brief.

The final brief discussed was Budget Brief - Education Contracts. This Program provides funding for the education of students in state custody. The Utah State Board of

Education contracts with various local school districts to provide educational services to these students. Educational services are provided through two programs, the Youth Center and Corrections Institutions. The Youth Center is located in Provo at the State Hospital. Corrections Institutions provide educational services throughout the state, primarily at the state prisons in Draper and Gunnison. The base budget for this program is \$3,854,800 in FY 2008. The Analyst recommends that the Legislature reaffirm for the Youth Center \$1,153,200 and a base budget for the Corrections Institutions of \$2,701,600. An increasing inmate population has prompted the Utah Department of Corrections to seek ways to increase inmate capacity. The Analyst further recommends that the State Board of Education review the Corrections Institutions Program and evaluate the program funding level allocated for the program in relation to the demand for services.

Ray Timothy, Deputy Superintendent, expressed his appreciation and support of the recommendations given by the Legislative Fiscal Analysts in all of the categories. Mr. Timothy stated there is one area of concern in the Education Contracts particularly in educating the incarcerated at the Utah Prisons in both Draper and Gunnison. He stated that a contract is established with local school districts to provide the educational services. Those districts are now starting to run in the deficit category. A recommendation was suggested of indexing the value to the WPU so that the contract costs would increase proportionally with the increase to the WPU.

5. **Pro Excel** - Co-Chair Last stated that this presentation will be postponed to another day.
6. **Agency Response** - Don Uchida, Executive Director, USOR, responded to the request of Rep. Tilton to document other funding sources for assistive technology utilized by the Centers for Independent Living in Utah. Mr. Uchida referred to a handout entitled, "Other Funding Sources for Assistive Technology Utilized by Centers for Independent Living in Utah." This handout is a followup of accountability of the \$400,000 requested by Rep. Tilton. The handout shows a breakdown by the number of consumers, number of devices purchased, and the approximate cost leveraged. The handout accounts for \$445,617 paid for by other sources. Mr. Uchida also referred to a handout entitled, "USOR 85 Years of Service." This handout details the building blocks, services, and funding requests of the USOR.

Linda Rutledge, Superintendent, Utah School for the Deaf and Blind, addressed the Subcommittee. A brochure was given to the Subcommittee detailing the Building Blocks Proposal for the Deaf and Blind Schools and all of the services provided by these schools.

Todd Hauber, Finance Director, USDB, discussed the financial request of USDB. He called attention to a building block of \$191,600 that shows as a supplemental request and as an ongoing request. A second building block is a request for the Related Services Staff. He stated that there is a great deal of turnover in some key related services staff--nursing staff, psychologists, interpreters, and orientation and mobility staff. The request is for an additional nurse position along with a 12.3 percent increase in salary, three additional orientation and mobility specialists, two additional psychologists, redesigning the interpreter scale salary and continued funding for interpreters, and a 5.8 percent pay increase for audiologists. The third building block deals with a Statutory Request for the Base Step and Lane increases. The calculation is 7.33 percent.

Co-Chair Stephenson posed a question to Sen. Hillyard. He stated that since the reabsorption of the Jean Massieu School into the Schools for the Deaf and Blind, there has been a history in this Subcommittee of commitment and assurances regarding facility. Co-Chair Stephenson further stated that the request for the facility is in the Capital Facilities Appropriations Committee and is proposed to be funded using education dollars as opposed to General Fund dollars. He asked if it would be appropriate to request that the funding request be sent back to this Subcommittee, and that it be included in this Subcommittee's budget. Sen. Hillyard said that he would make that inquiry.

7. **Public Comment** - Kris Fawson, Legislative Coalition for People with Disabilities, addressed the Subcommittee and invited the following individuals to give testimony on their experiences. The list also summarizes what they requested or what they support.

Jessica Fuller (Interpreter--Clay Anderson) Case Manager for the Deaf and Blind
Edgar Taylor--Request for Assistive Technologist for rural areas
Rod Home--Additional funding Vocational Rehabilitation
Heide Johnson--Transitional Services
Robert Norman--Independent Living
Heather Quintana--Independent Living
Jimmy Jones--Independent Living
Bambi Sorenson--Nursing Services and Salaries
Carrie Kilgar--Deaf and Blind Schools Orientation and Mobility Specialist

Sharyl Smith spoke in behalf of Teacher Libraries. She stated that there are two requests for school libraries--request for school library books and electronic resources in ongoing funding and a teacher librarian phasing program. Dennis Morgan, Retired Librarian, also addressed the Subcommittee concerning these requests. Also addressing the Subcommittee in support of teacher librarians was Dr. Linda Wolcott, Vice Provost for

Libraries, Utah State University; Carol Hansen, Professor at Weber State; and Diana Graff, Dean of Library, SUU Cedar City.

The funding request is for \$1.53 million to implement a phase-in program to bring Utah school library staffing into alignment with the Northwest Association of Accredited School Standards for Library Media and will help to demonstrate the effectiveness of certificated teacher librarians in increasing student achievement. The Grant will support a three-year phase-in program which will result in 50 model excellence for school library media programs of service. Specifically, it will provide 50 library media endorsed teacher librarians at a .5 match with the districts. The request also covers workshop training and mentored practice for 50 selected schools educator teams and training for principals in how to select and assess teacher librarians and how to assess the success of other media library programs. It also includes an out-of-state independent evaluation of the grant program through assessment of student achievement and the library media program. Grants would be awarded on a competitive basis.

Lory Curtis, Principal of South Park Academy, spoke in support of educating those individuals in the State Prison.

MOTION: Rep. Froerer moved to adjourn.

Co-Chair Last adjourned the meeting at 5:00 p.m.

Minutes were reported by Cherie Schmidt, Secretary

Sen. Howard Stephenson, Committee Co-Chair

Rep. Bradley G Last, Committee Co-Chair